



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

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David K. Paylor
Director

Dallas R. Sizemore
Regional Director

September 4, 2008

Mr. Robert Cornett, Interim General Manager
Washington County Service Authority
25122 Regal Drive
Abingdon, VA 24210

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

RE: Virginia Water Protection Individual Permit No. 02-1007
Washington County Service Authority Water Withdrawals, Washington County, Virginia
Approval of Request for Minor Modification

Dear Mr. Cornett:

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received your request to modify Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Individual Permit No. 02-1007 issued on August 2, 2004.

In the letter dated April 29, 2008, you indicated VWP Permit No. 96-0292, water withdrawal permit for the Middle Fork Holston River, will soon expire and requested that the permit be consolidated under the Washington County Service Authority (WCSA) VWP Permit No. 02-1007. In addition, the WCSA requested a temporary increase of withdrawal of water from 4.6 MGD to 6.6 MGD on the Middle Fork Holston River to insure adequate water service until the completion of construction of the South Fork Holston River intake. Upon completion of construction and initiation of operation of the new South Fork Holston River intake, the withdrawal limit of the Middle Fork Holston River intake shall be limited to 4.6 MGD.

In accordance with your request, and pursuant to the VWP Permit Program Regulation 9 VAC 25-210-210 and the § 401 of the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977, Public Law 95-217, DEQ approves your request to include the Middle Fork Holston River Intake under VWP Permit No. 02-1007, and the temporary increase of water withdrawal at this intake from 4.6 MGD to 6.6 MGD. DEQ has determined that this request qualifies for a Minor Modification in accordance with VWP Permit Program Regulation 9 VAC 25-210-175 F 5.

The Part I Special Conditions of the VWP Individual Permit No. 02-1007 has been modified to reflect the Minor Modification. Enclosed is your permit.

Mr. Robert Cornett, Interim General Manager

September 4, 2008

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Please note that this letter is an official component of the permit and should be retained in your files. If you have any questions, please contact Clairise R. Shaheen at (276)676-4809 or crshaheen@deq.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Allen J. Newman, P.E.
Water Permit Manager

Enclosures: VWP Permit No. 02-1007

cc: Nora M. Iseli, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Randy Owen, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Doug Canody, Chief Engineer, WCSA
Mark Osborne, WCSA
Bobby R. Lane, P.E., The Lane Group



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VWP Individual Permit Number 02-1007
Effective Date: August 2, 2004
Minor Modification Date: September 4, 2008
Expiration Date: August 2, 2019

VIRGINIA WATER PROTECTION PERMIT
ISSUED PURSUANT TO THE STATE WATER CONTROL LAW
AND SECTION 401 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Based upon an examination of the information submitted by the owner and in compliance with § 401 of the Clean Water Act as amended (33 USC 1251 et seq.) and the State Water Control Law and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, the State Water Control Board (board) has determined that there is a reasonable assurance that the activity authorized by this permit, if conducted in accordance with the conditions set forth herein, will protect instream beneficial uses and will not violate applicable water quality standards. The board finds that the effect of the impact, together with other existing or proposed impacts to wetlands, will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment to state waters or fish and wildlife resources.

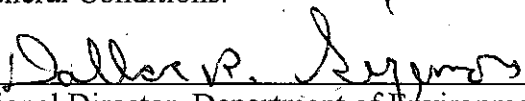
Permittee: Washington County Service Authority

Address: 25122 Regal Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-7444

Activity Location: South Fork of the Holston River Intake: near the confluence of the Middle Fork Holston River and South Fork Holston River in Washington County. Middle Fork of the Holston River Intake: west of Abingdon, upstream of Route 58 in Washington County.

Activity Description: South Fork of the Holston River Intake: the construction and operation of municipal water supply intake and associated utility lines. Middle Fork of the Holston River Intake: the continued operation of an existing municipal water supply intake.

The permitted activity shall be in accordance with this Permit Cover Page, Part I - Special Conditions and Part II - General Conditions.


Regional Director, Department of Environmental Quality

9/4/2008
Date

PART I - SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. Authorized Activities

1. In accordance with the Joint Permit Application for Washington County Service Authority dated submitted on May 17, 2002, revised on June 9, 2003 and again on March 17, 2004 and deemed complete on May 21, 2004, this permit authorizes the construction and operation of a water supply intake on the South Fork of the Holston River near the confluence of the Middle Fork Holston River and South Fork Holston River in Washington County as indicated in the application.
2. In accordance with the *Request for Permit Modification* dated April 29, 2008, this permit also authorizes the withdrawal of water from the operation of an existing municipal water supply intake on the Middle Fork Holston River previously permitted as VWP No. 96-0292. This modification allows for a temporary increase of withdrawal of water from 4.6 MGD to 6.6 MGD on the Middle Fork Holston River, in accordance with Part I.C., to insure adequate water service until the completion of construction of the South Fork Holston River intake. Upon completion of construction and initiation of operation of the new South Fork Holston River intake, the withdrawal limit of the Middle Fork Holston River intake shall be limited to 4.6 MGD.
2. The permittee shall notify the Department of Environmental Quality, Southwest Regional Office of any additional impacts to State waters, including wetlands, associated with this project. These impacts shall be subject to DEQ individual permit review and may require modification of this permit as well as mitigation.
3. The project activities described in the Joint Permit Application for Washington County Service Authority shall be adhered to during the life of this permit.
4. This permit is valid for a maximum of fifteen (15) years from the date of issuance. Reissuance of the permit will be necessary for water withdrawals to continue.

B. Construction Conditions

1. All utility line work in State waters shall be performed in such a manner as to minimize disturbance, and the area shall be returned to its original contours and stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line.
2. All dredging and/or filling activities shall be performed so as to minimize turbidity increases of downstream waters.
3. Wet or uncured concrete shall be strictly prohibited from entry into State waters.
4. No machinery may enter flowing waters in connection with this project.
5. All fill material shall be clean and free of contaminants in toxic concentrations or amounts in accordance with all Department of Environmental Quality Regulations.

6. All construction and demolition activities associated with this project shall be accomplished in such a manner that construction and/or waste materials do not enter State waters.
7. If the project involves a land disturbing activity of 10,000 square feet or more, the permittee is responsible for submitting a site specific erosion and sediment control plan to Washington County for review and approval prior to the initiation of any land disturbance. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be designed in accordance with the DCR Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Third Edition, 1992. These controls shall be placed prior to clearing and grading, and maintained in good working order to minimize impacts to State waters. These controls shall remain in place until the area stabilizes.
8. Within seven (7) days after final grade is achieved, all denuded areas shall be properly stabilized in accordance with the DCR Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Third Edition, 1992.
9. At crossings of perennial streams, pipes and culverts shall be countersunk a minimum of six (6) inches to provide for the re-establishment of a natural stream bottom and a low flow channel. Where culverts cannot be countersunk, open bottom culverts shall be used.
10. All State waters affected by a road crossing shall be restored to their original elevations immediately following the construction of that particular crossing.
11. The construction or work authorized by this VWP permit shall be executed in a manner so as to minimize any adverse impact on instream beneficial uses as defined in § 62.1-10 (b) of the Code of Virginia.
12. If karst features are encountered during the project the permittee shall coordinate with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to document and minimize adverse impacts.
13. Immediately downstream of the construction area, Water Quality Standards (9 VAC 25-260-50 et seq.) shall not be violated as a result of the construction activities.

C. Water Withdrawal, Monitoring and Intake Design Conditions

1. South Fork Holston River Intake
 - a. The maximum daily withdrawal from the intake shall not exceed 12 million gallons
 - b. The maximum combined withdrawal from the new intake and from the Middle Fork Holston River at Route 58, Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant, Reservation Spring, Mendota Well and purchases from Bristol Virginia Utilities Board, Saltville and Smyth County shall not exceed 12 million gallons per day.
 - c. The maximum installed pump capacity at South Fork Holston River Intake shall not exceed 8500 gallons per minute.

- d. The permittee shall report water use in compliance with the Water Withdrawal Reporting Regulation 9 VAC 25-200 et seq. Compliance with the conditions of this permit does not constitute compliance with 9 VAC 25-200.
- e. The maximum screen size opening of the intakes shall not be wider than 1.0 mm and a maximum intake screen velocity of 0.25 feet per second at the screen face.
- f. The permittee must conduct a study to monitor the impacts of the intake design on aquatic species. The study shall be coordinated with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries prior to implementation and shall include a preliminary survey to determine the aquatic resources in the area, primarily fisheries and amphibians (hellbenders); monitoring of the intake to determine if species are pulled through the intake structure and their fate when they reach the intake screen; and calculations that quantify the effects on the populations.

2. Middle Fork Holston River Intake

- a. Prior to completion of construction of the South Fork Holston River intake, the maximum daily withdrawal from the Middle Fork Holston River shall not exceed 6.6 million gallons. The maximum annual withdrawal from the Middle Fork Holston River shall not exceed 2.409 billion gallons.
- b. Upon completion of construction and initiation of operation of the new South Fork Holston River intake, the maximum withdrawal limit of the Middle Fork Holston River shall not exceed 4.6 million gallons. The maximum annual withdrawal from the Middle Fork Holston River shall not exceed 1.679 billion gallons.
- c. No construction activities in the Middle Fork Holston River are authorized by this permit. Any in-stream work that may become necessary for this intake will require a new permit application.
- d. The permittee shall monitor withdrawals from the Middle Fork Holston River on a daily basis to confirm that the withdrawals are in compliance with special conditions of this permit. To comply, the permittee shall monitor daily stream flow rates at the USGS gage 03475000 Middle Fork Holston River near Meadowview, VA., daily, URL address: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?03475000> . The permittee shall maintain daily records of pumping rate, total volume pumped, stream gage flow rate, and stream flow rate at the intake and make the records available upon inspection.
- e. Should the gage indicate that the flow in the Middle Fork Holston River has dropped to 30 cubic feet per second or less, pumping shall revert back to a limit of no more than 4.6 million gallons per day.
- f. The maximum screen size opening of the intakes shall not be wider than 2.0 mm and a maximum intake screen velocity of 0.25 feet per second at the screen face.

3. The permittee shall file an annual report in accordance with Part I.E. to demonstrate compliance with all water withdrawal conditions.

D. Mandatory Water Conservation Conditions

In the event that the Governor or the Virginia Drought Coordinator declares a drought emergency in the **Big Sandy Drought Evaluation Region**: defined as Lee, Wise, Buchanan, Dickinson, Scott, Russell, Tazewell, Washington and Smyth Counties then the permittee shall immediately upon notification by the Department of Environmental Quality implement the following mandatory conservation measures:

Mandatory Non-essential Water Use Restrictions

The following non-essential water uses will be prohibited during periods of declared drought emergencies. Please note the exceptions that follow each prohibited use. These prohibitions and exceptions will apply to uses from all sources of water and will only be effective when the Governor of Virginia declares a Drought Emergency through the issuance of an executive order. Water use restrictions shall not apply to the agricultural production of food or fiber, the maintenance of livestock including poultry, nor the commercial production of plant materials so long as best management practices are applied to assure the minimum amount of water is utilized.

Unrestricted irrigation of lawns is prohibited.

- Newly sodded and seeded areas may be irrigated to establish cover on bare ground at the minimum rate necessary for no more than a period of 60 days. . Irrigation rates may not exceed one inch of applied water in any 7-day period.
- Gardens, bedding plants, trees, shrubs and other landscape materials may be watered with hand held containers, hand held hoses equipped with an automatic shutoff device, sprinklers or other automated watering devices at the minimum rate necessary but in no case more frequently than twice per week. Irrigation should not occur during the heat of the day.
- All allowed lawn irrigation must be applied in a manner to assure that no runoff, puddling or excessive watering occurs.
- Irrigation systems may be tested after installation, routine maintenance or repair for no more than ten minutes per zone.

Unrestricted irrigation of athletic fields is prohibited.

- Athletic fields may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. at a rate not to exceed one inch per application or more than a total of one inch in multiple applications during any ten-day period. All irrigation water must fall on playing surfaces with no outlying areas receiving irrigation water directly from irrigation heads.
- Localized dry areas that show signs of drought stress and wilt (curled leaves, foot-printing, purpling) may be syringed by the application of water for a cumulative time not to exceed fifteen minutes during any twenty four hour period. Syringing may be

accomplished with an automated irrigation system or with a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff device at the minimum rate necessary.

- Athletic fields may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. during necessary overseeding, sprigging or resodding operations at the minimum rate necessary for a period that does not exceed 60 days. Irrigation rates during this restoration period may not exceed one inch of applied water in any seven-day period. Syringing is permitted during signs of drought stress and wilt (curled leaves, foot-printing, purpling).
- All allowed athletic field irrigation must be applied in a manner to assure that no runoff, puddling or excessive watering occurs.
- Irrigation is prohibited on athletic fields that are not scheduled for use within the next 120-day period.
- Water may be used for the daily maintenance of pitching mounds, home plate areas and base areas with the use of hand held containers or hand held hoses equipped with an automatic shutoff device at the minimum rate necessary.
- Skinned infield areas may utilize water to control dust and improve playing surface conditions utilizing hand held containers or hand held hoses equipped with an automatic shutoff device at the minimum rate necessary no earlier than two hours prior to official game time.

Washing paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, tennis courts, and patios is prohibited.

- Driveways and roadways may be pre-washed in preparation for recoating and sealing.
- Tennis courts composed of clay or similar materials may be wetted by means of a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff device at the minimum rate necessary for maintenance. Automatic wetting systems may be used between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the minimum rate necessary.
- Public eating and drinking areas may be washed using the minimum amount of water required to assure sanitation and public health.
- Water may be used at the minimum rate necessary to maintain effective dust control during the construction of highways and roads.

Use of water for washing or cleaning of mobile equipment including automobiles, trucks, trailers and boats is prohibited.

- Mobile equipment may be washed using hand held containers or hand held hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices provided that no mobile equipment is washed more than once per calendar month and the minimum amount of water is utilized.
- Construction, emergency or public transportation vehicles may be washed as necessary to preserve the proper functioning and safe operation of the vehicle.
- Mobile equipment may be washed at car washes that utilize reclaimed water as part of the wash process or reduce water consumption by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water use restrictions were not in effect.
- Automobile dealers may wash cars that are in inventory no more than once per week utilizing hand held containers and hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices, automated equipment that utilizes reclaimed water as part of the wash process, or

automated equipment where water consumption is reduced by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water use restrictions were not in effect.

- Automobile rental agencies may wash cars no more than once per week utilizing hand held containers and hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices, automated equipment that utilizes reclaimed water as part of the wash process, or automated equipment where water consumption is reduced by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water use restrictions were not in effect.
- Marine engines may be flushed with water for a period that does not exceed 5 minutes after each use.

Use of water for the operation of ornamental fountains, artificial waterfalls, misting machines, and reflecting pools is prohibited.

- Fountains and other means of aeration necessary to support aquatic life are permitted.

Use of water to fill and top off outdoor swimming pools is prohibited.

- Newly built or repaired pools may be filled to protect their structural integrity.
- Outdoor pools operated by commercial ventures, community associations, recreation associations, and similar institutions open to the public may be refilled as long as:
 - Levels are maintained at mid-skimmer depth or lower,
 - Any visible leaks are immediately repaired,
 - Backwashing occurs only when necessary to assure proper filter operation,
 - Deck areas are washed no more than once per calendar month (except where chemical spills or other health hazards occur),
 - All water features (other than slides) that increase losses due to evaporation are eliminated, and
 - Slides are turned off when the pool is not in operation.
- Swimming pools operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation may be filled or topped off.
- Indoor pools may be filled or topped off.
- Residential swimming pools may be filled only to protect structural integrity, public welfare, safety and health and may not be filled to allow the continued operation of such pools.

Water may be served in restaurants, clubs, or eating-places only at the request of customers.

E. Reporting

1. By January 31st of each year in which water is pumped from the intakes, the permittee shall file a report demonstrating compliance with special conditions under Part I.C. of the permit. On each day that water is pumped, the permittee shall record and report the amount of water pumped from the each intake, with each intake labeled as South Fork Holston River or Middle Fork Holston River, and the total amount of water pumped or purchased from all other sources listed in special condition Part I.C.
2. Written communications and reports required by this permit shall be submitted with the appropriate Virginia Water Protection Permit Number to the DEQ at the following address:

Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Permits, VWPP Program, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240. All reports required by this permit and other information requested by DEQ shall be signed by the applicant or a person acting in the applicant's behalf, with the authority to bind the applicant. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

- a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above; and
 - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.
 - c. If an authorization is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization shall be submitted to DEQ prior to or together with any separate information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.
3. All submittals required by this permit shall contain the following signed certification statement:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violation.

Part II – General Conditions

A. Duty to Comply

The permittee shall comply with all conditions of the VWP permit. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee of the duty to comply with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and prohibitions. Any VWP permit violation is a violation of the law, and is grounds for enforcement action, VWP permit termination, revocation, modification, or denial of an application for a VWP permit extension or reissuance.

B. Duty to Cease or Confine Activity

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the activity for which a VWP permit has been granted in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of the VWP permit.

C. Duty to Mitigate

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any impacts in violation of the permit which may have a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

D. VWP Permit Action

1. A VWP permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated as set forth in 9 VAC 25-210 et seq.
2. If a permittee files a request for VWP permit modification, revocation, or termination, or files a notification of planned changes, or anticipated noncompliance, the VWP permit terms and conditions shall remain effective until the request is acted upon by the board. This provision shall not be used to extend the expiration date of the effective VWP permit. If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by the VWP permit after the expiration date of the VWP permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new VWP permit or comply with the provisions of 9 VAC 25-210-185.
3. VWP permits may be modified, revoked and reissued or terminated upon the request of the permittee or other person at the board's discretion, or upon board initiative to reflect the requirements of any changes in the statutes or regulations, or as a result of VWP permit noncompliance as indicated in subsection A above, or for other reasons listed in 9 VAC 25-210-180.

E. Inspection and Entry

Upon presentation of credentials, any duly authorized agent of the board may, at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances:

1. Enter upon any permittee's property, public or private, and have access to, inspect and copy any records that must be kept as part of the VWP permit conditions;
2. Inspect any facilities, operations or practices (including monitoring and control equipment) regulated or required under the VWP permit, and
3. Sample or monitor any substance, parameter or activity for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the conditions of the VWP permit or as otherwise authorized by law.

F. Duty to Provide Information

1. The permittee shall furnish to the board any information which the board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking, reissuing or terminating the VWP permit, or to determine compliance with the VWP permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by the permittee.
2. Plans, specifications, maps, conceptual reports and other relevant information shall be submitted as required by the board prior to commencing construction.

G. Monitoring and Records Requirements

1. Monitoring of parameters, other than pollutants, shall be conducted according to approved analytical methods as specified in the VWP permit. Analysis of pollutants will be conducted according to 40 CFR Part 136 (2000), Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants.
2. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
3. The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart or electronic recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by the VWP permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for the VWP permit, for a period of at least three years from the date of the expiration of a granted VWP permit. This period may be extended by request of the board at any time.
4. Records of monitoring information shall include:
 - a. The date, exact place and time of sampling or measurements;
 - b. The name of the individuals who performed the sampling or measurements;
 - c. The date and time the analyses were performed;

- d. The name of the individuals who performed the analyses;
- e. The analytical techniques or methods supporting the information such as observations, readings, calculations and bench data used;
- f. The results of such analyses; and
- g. Chain of custody documentation.

H. Reopener

This permit may be reopened to modify conditions to meet new regulatory standards duly adopted by the board. Cause for reopening a permit includes, but is not limited to when the circumstances on which the permit was based have materially and substantially changed, or special studies conducted by the board or the permittee show material and substantial change, since the time the permit was issued and thereby constitute cause for permit modification or revocation and re-issuance.

I. Compliance with State and Federal Law

Compliance with this permit constitutes compliance with the VWP permit requirements of the State Water Control Law. Nothing in this VWP permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action under or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or other penalties established pursuant to any other state law or regulation or under the authority preserved by § 510 of the Clean Water Act.

J. Property rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights or any infringement of federal, state or local law or regulation.

K. Transferability

Except as provided for under automatic transfer, a permit shall be transferred only if the permit has been modified to reflect the transfer or has been revoked and reissued to the new permittee. A permit shall be automatically transferred to a new permittee if:

1. The current permittee notifies the board within 30 days of the proposed transfer of the title to the facility or property;
2. The notice to the board includes a written agreement between the existing and proposed permittee containing a specific date of transfer of permit responsibility, coverage and liability to the new permittee, or that the existing permittee will retain such responsibility,

coverage, or liability, including liability for compliance with the requirements of any enforcement activities related to the permitted activity; and

3. The board does not within the 30-day time period notify the existing permittee and the new permittee of its intent to modify or revoke and reissue the VWP permit.

L. Civil and criminal liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil and criminal penalties for noncompliance.

M. Unauthorized discharge of pollutants

Except in compliance with this permit, it shall be unlawful for the permittee to dredge, fill or discharge any pollutant into, or adjacent to surface waters, or otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties of surface waters, excavate in wetlands, or on or after October 1, 2001, conduct the following activities in a wetland:

1. New activities to cause draining that significantly alters or degrades existing wetland acreage or functions;
2. Filling or dumping;
3. Permanent flooding or impounding; or
4. New activities that cause significant alteration or degradation of existing wetland acreage or functions.

N. Severability

The provisions of this permit authorization are severable.

O. VWP Permit Extension

Any permittee with an effective VWP permit for an activity that is expected to continue after the expiration date of the VWP permit, without any change in the activity authorized by the VWP permit, shall submit written notification requesting an extension. The permittee must file the request prior to the expiration date of the VWP permit. Under no circumstances will the extension be granted for more than 15 years beyond the original effective date of the VWP permit. If the request for extension is denied, the VWP permit will still expire on its original date and, therefore, care shall be taken to allow for sufficient time for the board to evaluate the extension request and to process a full VWP permit modification, if required.